SITREP.11.02

A SITUATION REPORT ON EMERGENCY TRANSBOUNDARY OUTBREAK PESTS (ETOPS) FOR NOVEMBER WITH A FORECAST TILL MID-JANUARY, 2003

SUMMARY

1. **Summary:** This report provides an update about recent activities on emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) in Africa, the Middle-East, Central and Southwest Asia, and Latin America. The report includes activities that took place in November and a forecast till mid-January, 2003. Key ETOPs, including locusts, grasshoppers, armyworm and grain-eating red-billed *Quelea* birds are covered by the report. A brief overview of the current status of each of these pests is outlined in the remainder of this summary with detailed accounts provided thereafter.

DESERT LOCUST, *SCHISTOCERCA GREGARIA (*FORSKAL)

2. **Desert locusts, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forskal)**. Scattered adults were treated on 435 ha in November in Niger. Small-scale breeding was reported in western Mauritania, northern Mali, and Niger. Isolated adults were seen in southern Algeria. A few adult locusts are likely to persist in Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Algeria but significant developments are not likely during the forecast period.

3. A few scattered adult locusts were seen in southern Yemen and isolated adults were present in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coasts of Sudan, where unusually heavy rains fell in November. Elsewhere, the desert locust situation remained calm during the reporting month. Small-scale breeding is likely in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coasts of Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Eritrea but other countries will remain fairly calm during the forecast period.

4. Despite the light rains that fell in Baluchistan, Pakistan and along the Indo-Pakistan border, conditions remained unfavorable and no locusts were reported in these regions. Locusts were not reported from Iran or Afghanistan and significant developments are not likely during the forecast period.

OTHER LOCUSTS AND GRASSHOPPERS.

5. **Red locusts, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* (Surville)**. The red locust situation in the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) region remained relatively calm in November. Only a few residual locusts persisted in the outbreak areas and it is likely that these locusts could breed and give rise to moderate populations of hoppers in the outbreak areas in Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia during the forecast period.

6. **Madagascar migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria capito* (L.).** Unless the seasonal rains continue to fall, it is likely that the dry conditions will minimize locust activities in the country. If so, locusts will concentrate in areas where green vegetation exists and should the rains fall, breeding could commence and give

rise to hoppers in the coming months. Vigilant surveillance and monitoring are recommended to avert any serious outbreak that could lead to crop loss.

7. ***Anacridium melanorhodon*** (Walker): No further reports were received in November on the tree locusts, ***A. melanorhodon,*** including those that were seen and treated in Eritrea by the Desert Locust Control Organizations for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). No reports were received on the African migratory locust, ***Locusta migratoria migratorioides*** (L.), brown locust, ***Locustana pardalina*** (Walker), Moroccan locust, ***Dociostaurus maroccanus*** (Thunberg), Italian locust, ***Calliptamus italicus*** (L.), the Senegalese grasshopper, ***and Oedaleus senegalensis*** (Krauss) and no locust activities were reported from Central Asia in November. No reports were received on locusts from Latin America or other countries in the region. No major locust activities are expected during the forecast period.

8. **Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta* (Walker).** There were no reports received on Armyworm outbreaks in the IRLCO-CSA or the DLCO-EA regions, but limited activities may be seen in these regions during the forecast period.

9. **Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.).** A late received report indicated that ***Quelea*** birds attacked irrigated rice and sorghum crops in the Senegal river valley, Senegal. No details were available. Quelea birds were reported being a problem to cereal crops in Nyanza Province of Kenya in November.
Further reports were not received on quelea from the other DLCO-EA or IRLOC/CSA member countries. End of Summary.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION: WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

10. The Sahelian Africa from Mauritania to Chad remained fairly dry. Only patches of green vegetation were reported in Akjoujt, and Aguilal Fai, Mauritania, the Tilemsi Valley and Timetrine, northern Mali, and Talak region, Niger.

11. Northwestern Morocco and northern Algeria received light (<20 mm) to moderate (<50 mm) rains in November. Light rains also fell a few times in eastern Algeria, southern Tunisia and northwestern Libya.

12. The winter breeding areas of Sudan along the Red Sea coast from Tokar Delta to Port Sudan received heavy rains (>50 mm). In Saudi Arabia, good rains fell in the central and northern coastal plains between Jeddah and Yenbo in late November. Significant rainfall was not reported elsewhere in the central region, but vegetation was green in a few places along the Red Sea coastal areas between Halaib, Egypt and Massawa, Eritrea. Most of the vegetation in the other countries in the region was drying up and only a few patches of green vegetation were reported in northwestern Somalia.

13. Light rains fell in the Eastern region in Baluchistan, Jiwani, Pasni, and south of the Afghanistan border in Pakistan during the first decad of November. Light rains also fell in Rajasthan, India in mid November, however, vegetation in the desert locust breeding areas remained dry in both countries.

14. Erratic and below normal rains were

recorded in most of the stations located near the red locust outbreak areas, however, heavy rains were recorded – 161.6 mm in Mpanda (Iku-Katavi) and 383 mm in Kaliua (Malagarasi) outbreak areas in Tanzania in November.

DESERT LOCUST ACTIVITIES

15. **Western and northwestern Africa.** In Mauritania, limited breeding persisted in November. Different instar hoppers, fledgling and immature adults were seen near Moudjeria and Akjoujt in the west and northwest. Third to fifth instar hoppers at densities of 5,000 per ha were seen on 2.5 ha, but did not necessitate control. Solitary immature and mature adults were sighted in a few places in the Tilemsi Valley and the Timetrine and hoppers were seen in Bolrech, Mali. In Niger, scattered immature and mature adults and hoppers were seen on the Talak plains northeast of Arlit near Agaliouk at 1845N0732E where 435 ha of locusts were treated by ground during the second decad of November. Isolated immature adults were seen from30 October and 2 November in southwestern Algeria. Locusts were not reported from Chad, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Morocco in November.

16. Forecast: Small-scale breeding may occur in areas between Moudjeria and Akjoujt, Mauritania, Timetrine, Tilemsi Valley and the Adrar des Iforas, Mali provided rain falls during the forecast period. Locust numbers will decline in Tamesna and western Air, Niger. Small-scale breeding may occur in southern and southwestern Algeria areas where green vegetation exists, but significant developments are not likely during the forecast period. Morocco, Tunisia and Libya will remain calm during the forecast period.

17. **Eastern Africa, northeastern Africa, and the Near East**. Isolated mature adults were reported in Tokar Delta and the coastal plains from Tokar to Suakin, Sudan. Scattered immature solitary adults and low densities of hoppers were reported on the coastal plains of Yemen. No locusts were reported in Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Near East in November.

18. Forecast: Low level breeding could occur in a few places along the Red Sea coastal areas of Sudan and Yemen. Isolated, scattered adults may appear and persist in a few places in Somalia, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, and Eritrea coastal areas. Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Oman, Kuwait, UAR, Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Syria, and Turkey will likely remain calm during the forecast period.

19. **Eastern region.** Despite the light rains that fell in Baluchistan, Pakistan and along the Indo-Pakistan border, conditions remained unfavorable and no locusts were reported in these regions or from Iran or Afghanistan.

20. Forecast: Significant locust developments are not expected in the Eastern region during the forecast period.

OTHER LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER ACTIVITIES

21. **Moroccan/Mediterranean locust, *D. maroccanus* (Thunberg) and the Italian locust, *C. italicus* (L):** No reports were

received on the Moroccan/ Mediterranean or the Italian locust in Central Asian at the time this report was compiled.

22. Forecast: No locust activities are expected during the forecast period. Eggs that were laid by the Moroccan locust in parts of Afghanistan and other countries in the region will still remain inactive until next the Spring.

23. **Latin America and the Carribean (LAC)**. No reports were received on locusts or grasshoppers in LAC countries in October.

24. Forecast. No significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

25. **Red locust, *N. septemfasciata* (Surville).** The red locust situation in the IRLCO-CSA region remained relatively calm in November. Only a few residual locusts persisted in the outbreak areas, which could breed and give rise to moderate populations of hoppers in the outbreak areas in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique during the forecast period.

26. Forecast: Residual red locust populations are likely to successfully breed in the outbreak areas in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. Medium to heavy infestation of hopper bands are expected especially in Iku-Katavi, Malagarasi and the Wembere outbreak areas where residual adult populations escaped spraying.

Note: The end of the current drought affecting Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, will likely trigger serious outbreaks of ETOPs and affect the traditional red locust, quelea as well as armyworm outbreak regions in these countries. Post-drought outbreaks of brown locusts may also become more evident in southern Botswana, southern Namibia and South Africa. It is imperative that regular survey and monitoring activities are carried out to avert any massive invasions that could occur once the drought spell is broken.

27. **Madagascar migratory locust, *L. migratoria capito* (L.).** Unless the seasonal rains continue to fall, it is likely that the dry conditions will minimize locust activities in the country. This will likely concentrate the locusts in areas where green vegetation exists and create favorable conditions for breeding and development of hoppers when the rain falls. Routine surveillance and monitoring are recommended to avert any serious outbreak that could lead to crop loss.

28. **Brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker)**: No reports were received on brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker). Significant locust outbreaks are not expected during the forecast period.

ARMYWORM ACTIVITIES

29. **Armyworm, *S. exempta* (Walker).** Armyworm activities were not reported from the IRLCO-CSA member countries. Armyworm reports were not received from the DLCO-EA member countries in November.

30. Forecast: There is a likelihood of armyworm outbreaks in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe should rain falls in the outbreak areas in these countries. Moth trap operations must be enhanced in both the DLCO-EA and the IRLCO/CSA regions. **Please, see Para. 26 for a post-drought pest phenomenon, which is applicable across the board to all ETOPs**.

QUELEA BIRD ACTIVITIES

31. **Red-billed quelea, *Q. quelea* (L).** Quelea and other grain eating birds were reported causing damage to rice in Kisumu, Homa Bay and Suba districts in Kenya. The National Crop Protection Services and the DLCO-EA carried out aerial spraying using 60% Fenthion (Queleatox). No further reports were received on quelea from other DLCO-EA or IRLOC/CSA member countries.

32. Forecast: Quelea breeding is likely to start in January/February in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The resulting fledglings and adult birds are likely to cause damage to small Quelea and other grain eating birds are likely to continue being a problem to small grain cereal crops in Nyanza Province, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Eritrea during the forecast period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

33. Although much of the current locust and other migratory pest populations, largely did not warrant significant control actions, some intensive control operations were carried out against quelea birds in Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan. It highly likely that if these pests are left unaddressed, they could increase in number to a level that could pose serious threats to crops and pasture. It is important that regular monitoring, surveillance and reporting are maintained and that the information is communicated promptly to the appropriate bodies within the national, regional and international structures.

ACTION REQUESTED AND CONTACT INFORMATION

34. The Africa Emergency Locust/ Grasshopper Assistance (AELGA) project, which has been administered by the US Agency for International Development's (USAID), Bureau for Africa (AFR) for more than fourteen years, has now been transferred to the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), and is being administered by the Office for US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

AELGA works closely with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Agriculture Production and Protection Division, Plant Protection Services (UN/FAO/AGPP/PPPD /MPU), DLCO-EA, IRLOC/CSA, USAID bilateral and regional missions, host country ministries, and research establishments. Information on ETOPs is regularly collected from these and other entities, including the Information Core for Southern Africa Migratory Pests (ICOSAMP) to continuously monitor and analyze the potential risks for large-scale emergency outbreaks, and compile and disseminate as AELGA's SITREPS to all interested parties. Unsolicited reports or information about ETOP situations and activities in your region or country are always welcome and much appreciated.

35. Missions with programs on food security, emergency pests and other related activities, host countries and regional organizations with similar portfolios, and other stakeholders are **kindly requested to forward their reports by the last day of the reporting month or within the first three days of the following month. Please, forward reports, information, questions, and/or requests to Dr. Yeneneh T. Belayneh, ybelayneh@afr-sd.org FAX: 202-219-0506 (USA).** Please, cc your response to Drs. Joe Vorgetts,

jvorgetts@afr-sd.org, and Harry Bottenberg, hbottenberg@afr-sd.org

For more information on the weather conditions, please, visit the following web sites:

http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/faoinfo/economic/giews/economic/engslish/esahel/sehtoc.htm

http://www.fews.net

For more information on ETOPs activities, you may visit:

http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm

http://www.english/newsroom/news/2002/5000-en.htm/

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AELGA'S ACTIVITIES, DO VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE:WWW.AELGA.NET

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interregional Trainer Training Course on Alternative Application Strategies and Tactics (AAST) for acridid control, in 2003. **Those interested can contact Dr. Yeneneh T. Belayneh, via e-mail: ybelayneh@afr-sd.org or phone/fax: 202-219-0495/202-219-0506 (USA)**

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